



United States Mission to the OSCE

Response to the Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, Goran Svilanovic

As delivered by Ambassador Ian Kelly
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
October 28, 2010

Mr. Svilanovic, thank you for your report and continuous service advancing the Economic and Environmental Dimension. The United States supports greater prominence for activities within the Second Dimension and supports assertions of the Report by the OSCE Secretary General Concerning the Complementary Role of the OSCE in the Field of Energy Security.

Earlier this week during the Economic and Environmental Dimension closing session of the Vienna Review Conference, our delegation delineated our priorities and vision for the future of the Second Dimension. It is vital that we take concrete, measurable steps leading to the implementation of commitments in the Economic and Environmental Dimension. In addition, we must pursue mechanisms to bring greater regional cohesion to the activities of economic and environmental officers from our field missions through more frequent consultations among the officers and greater exchanges with delegations in Vienna.

The United States welcomes the renewed emphasis on energy security and we agree with the assertions in the report of the Secretary General which contemplates the Vilnius expert meeting, including the call for clarifying a political mandate for the extent to which the OSCE should be engaged in energy security. We are engaged in the premier platform for political dialogue on comprehensive security in our region. Additionally, good governance and transparency are also core priorities that should help guide our energy security pursuits. These priorities are truly where the OSCE can uniquely contribute and complement efforts undertaken in this area.

We also think it is important to assist Afghanistan by including it in programs which include economic development, good governance and the fostering of licit commercial activity.

A key structural adjustment we must consider for the future of the Office of the Coordinator for Economic and Environmental Activities is conferring a status commensurate with the increasing political will to pursue more initiatives in the Second Dimension. We need to consider how we can best empower the position so as to demonstrate enhanced commitment to activities of the Economic and Environmental Dimension. We would like to enhance the Coordinator's ability to pursue OSCE mandates by affording the position commensurate authority among interlocutors with international organizations and national institutions.

Mr. Svilanovic, thank you again for your leadership. The United States supports the work of the Office of the Coordinator for Economic and Environmental Activities, and looks forward to reiterating that support at the Astana Summit.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.